Story 4: The Price of Power

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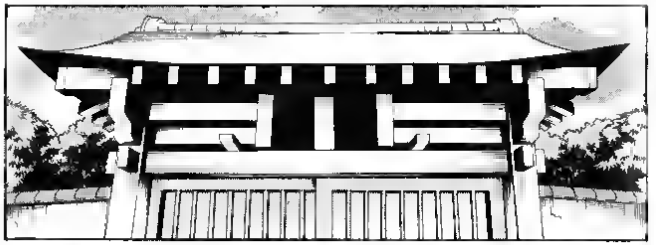

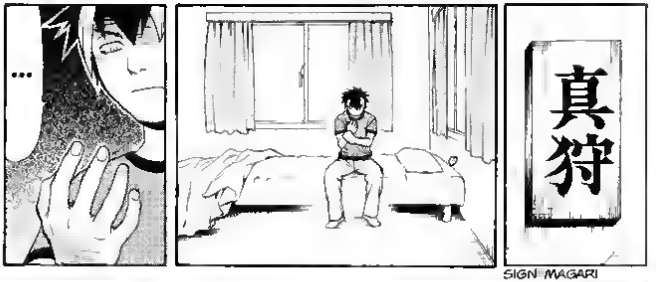

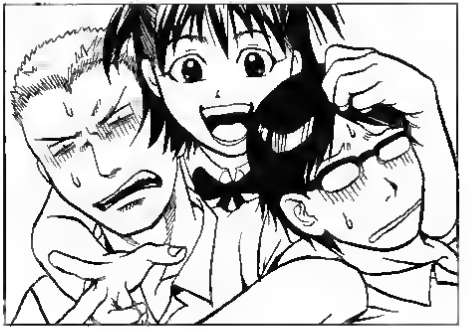

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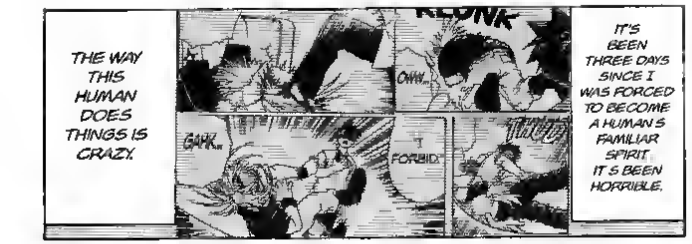
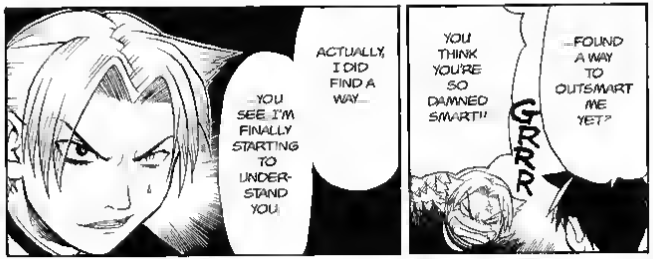

THE WAY THIS HUMAN DOES THINGS IS CRAZY.
KLONK
OWW...
GARK...
I FORBID!
THUD
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE I WAS FORCED TO BECOME A HUMAN'S FAMILIAR SPIRIT. IT'S BEEN HORRIBLE.

...SO, STRAY DOG...
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA MAKE HIM REVOKE THE CONTRACT!!
Coke
I REFUSE TO BE JERKED AROUND ANY-MORE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OUTLAW DEMONS OR THE RESIST-ANCE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YES-TERDAY
...OH? WHAT IS IT?


...YOU SEE, I'M FINALLY STARTING TO UNDER-STAND YOU.
ACTUALLY, I DID FIND A WAY...
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO DAMNED SMART!!
GRRR
...FOUND A WAY TO OUTSMART ME YET?

BEEP
...BUT LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE PLEASE! ♡♡
I'M AT THE BEAUTY SPA RIGHT NOW...
THAT...
THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CALL! ♡♡♡
HI! ♡ I'M THE DARK LIEGE! ♡

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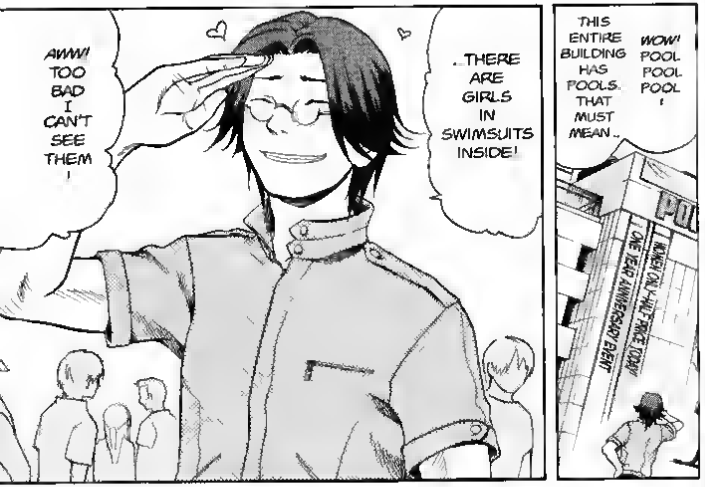
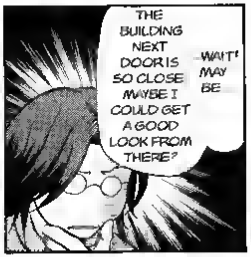
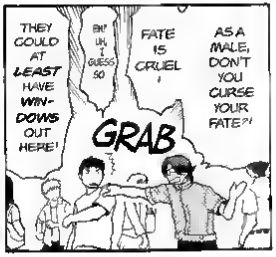
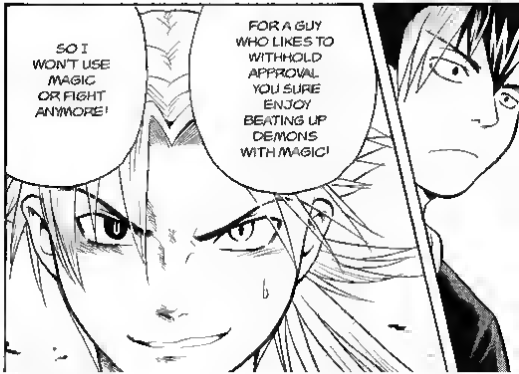

AWW! TOO BAD I CAN'T SEE THEM!
..THERE ARE GIRLS IN SWIMSUITS INSIDE!
THIS ENTIRE BUILDING HAS POOLS. THAT MUST MEAN..
WOW! POOL POOL POOL!
ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT
WOMEN ONLY—HALF PRICE TODAY!







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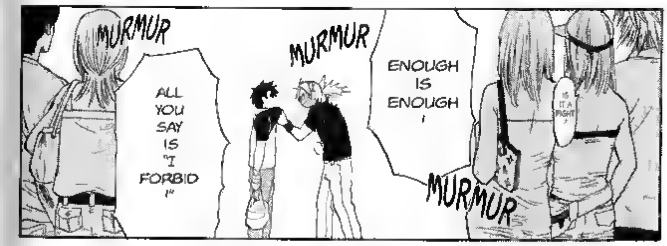

HEY, HEY, YOU TWO !
HUH? ! WHAT'D YOU SAY?
THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE
YOU GIVE THE ORDERS BUT YOU NEVER GET HURT!
MEANWHILE, I GET BEATEN TO A PULP!

BASICALLY, I'M A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR
BUT IF YOU MUST KNOW, MY NAME IS—
I DIDN'T ASK! GET LOST IDIOT
?
!
JUST A HANDSOME YOUTH WHO HAPPENS TO BE BLOWING THROUGH TOWN DRIVING THE FEMALE FOLK INSANE.

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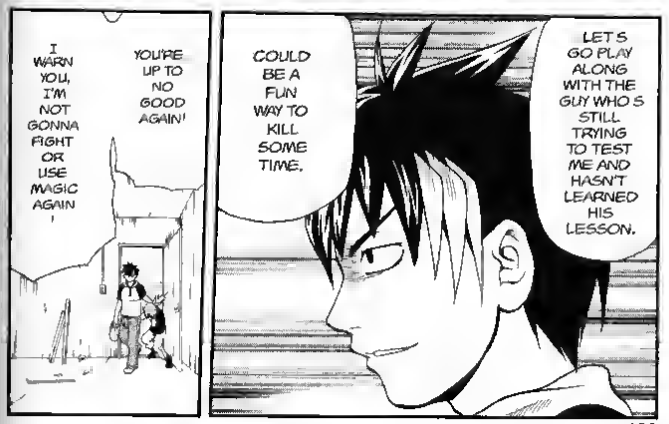
I WARN YOU, I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT OR USE MAGIC AGAIN!
YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD AGAIN!
COULD BE A FUN WAY TO KILL SOME TIME.
LET'S GO PLAY ALONG WITH THE GUY WHO'S STILL TRYING TO TEST ME AND HASN'T LEARNED HIS LESSON.

YOU TWO ARE PEEPING TOMS! RIGHT? RIGHT??
HEH HEH! I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING— THAT FOOL IN THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR!
OH YOU'RE THAT BLOW HARD FROM EARLIER

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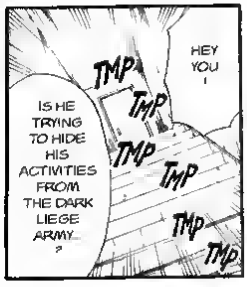
NO ONE'S MESSIN' WITH MY NOGGIN!
AND MY NAME ISN'T "PERV"! IT'S...
BLUNT OBJECT TO THE HEAD SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
DON'T WORRY, PERV YOU'LL SOON FORGET EVERY THING



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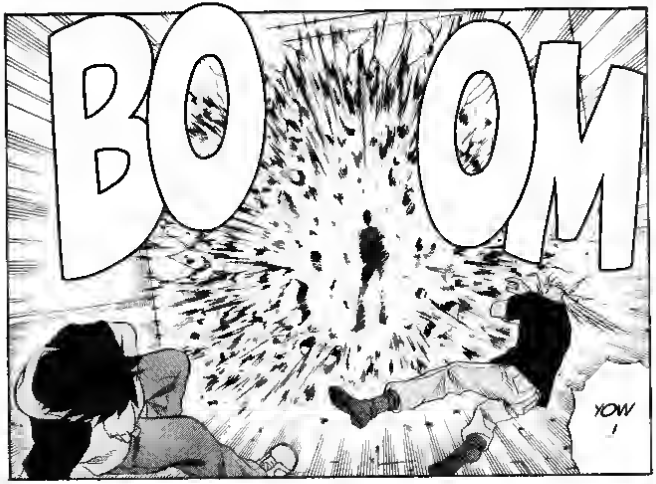

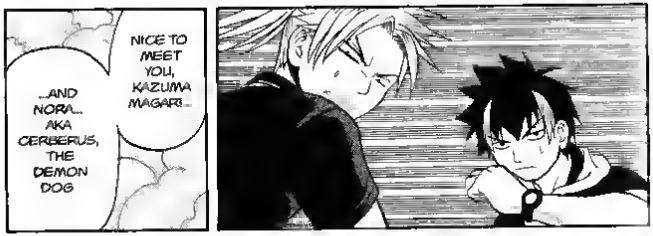

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WEAK ?!
SINCE YOU'RE SO WEAK RIGHT NOW, IT'LL BE SIMPLE TO DISPOSE OF YOU.
ZIP
ASTO'S MY FAMILIAR SPIRIT
WE CAUSED YOU A LITTLE TROUBLE YESTERDAY, KAZUMA.
YOU CAN TAKE A STEP BACK, ASTO
SHUT UP! I'M ABSO-LUTELY NOT GONNA USE MAGIC !!
WE'LL—
LISTEN, I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT!
I'M NOT GONNA FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS !
THIS GUY IS FAST !
ZIP
YOU.
WHO'RE YOU CALLING WEAK ?!
I'VE HEARD YOU'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE DARK LIEGE HER-SELF!
I JUST WONDER, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE DARK LIEGE ARMY HAS KEPT ITS PUPPY DOG UNDER WRAPS ALL THIS TIME.
AND YET, HERE YOU ARE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
BUT I WONDER WHY YOU WERE MADE INTO A FAMILIAR SPIRIT
WELL, IT'S FINE WITH ME EITHER WAY..
HUH ?!

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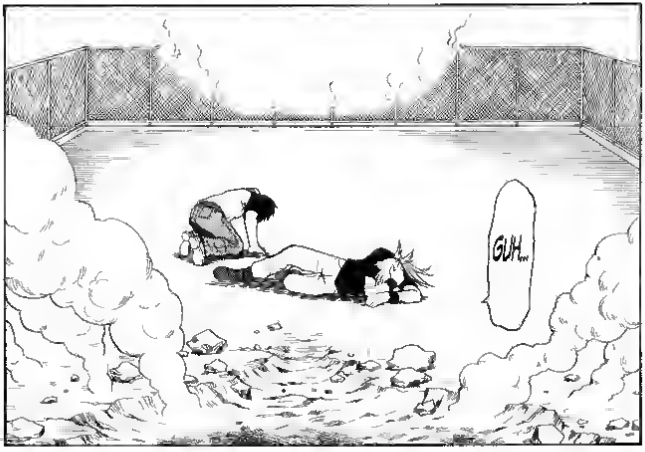

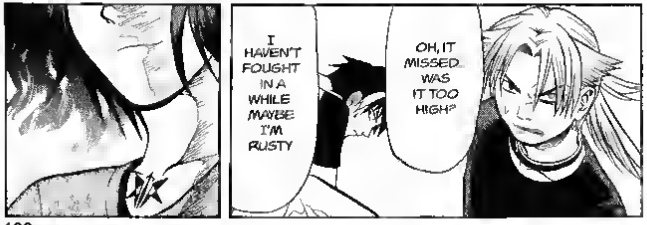

FUMP
THIS DOG WON'T FETCH STICKS FOR YOU ANY MORE!
DAMMIT! I WON'T USE IT!
EVEN IF YOU BEG ME TO!
GRRR
IF I DO I APPROVE SIMPLE AS THAT
IF I DON'T SEE THE NEED, I DISAPPROVE
...! OH, SO NOW YOU'RE HANDING OUT APPROVALS?! INCONSISTENT!

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WON'T USE IT...!
...
FINE, I'LL USE
GRRRR
USE...
HMM. THEN WHY DON'T WE TRY USING ANOTHER KIND OF MAGIC?
FOOL! WHETHER I USE AQUA MAGIA OR NOT, DON'T MESS WITH ME!
GRRRR

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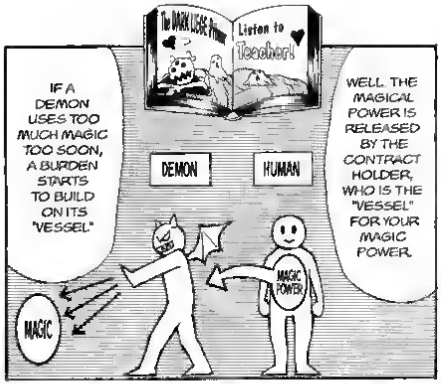
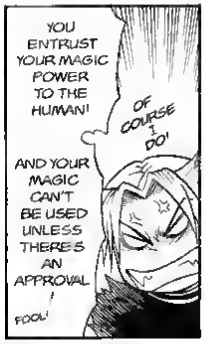

The DARK LORE Primer
Listen to Teacher!
IF A DEMON USES TOO MUCH MAGIC TOO SOON, A BURDEN STARTS TO BUILD ON ITS "VESSEL."
DEMON
HUMAN
WELL THE MAGICAL POWER IS RELEASED BY THE CONTRACT HOLDER, WHO IS THE "VESSEL" FOR YOUR MAGIC POWER.
MAGIC
MAGIC POWER



THE SEAL'S RELEASED A LOT, WHICH CONSUMES MAGIC POWER CONSTANTLY. RESULT KABOOM
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A FAMILIAR SPIRIT LIKE OUR HELL-HOUND
THE MORE MAGIC USED, THE GREATER THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE.
ROAR

IT'S TRYING TO SAY THAT YOUR BODY CAN NO LONGER ENDURE THE RELEASE OF MAGICAL POWER.
THE PAIN IS TRYING TO TELL YOU SOME-THING.

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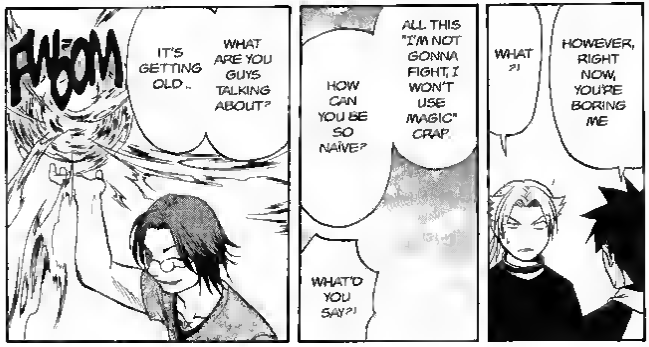
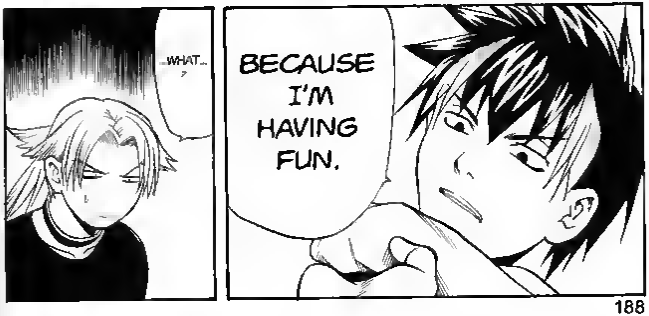

FWOOM
IT'S GETTING OLD..
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
HOW CAN YOU BE SO NAIVE?
ALL THIS "I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT, I WON'T USE MAGIC" CRAP.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
WHAT ?!
HOWEVER, RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE BORING ME



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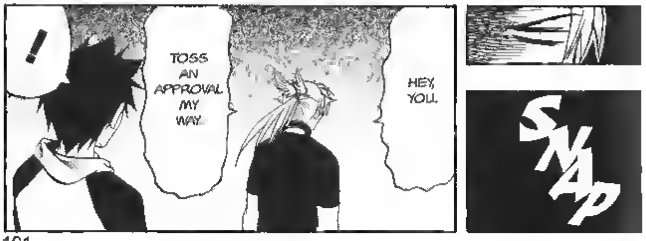
YOU REALLY ARE...
HA HA.. SO YOU CAN ONLY RUN AWAY AFTER ALL!
HUH, YOU REALLY ARE
HE'S RIGHT. YOU STAY STUB BORN, YOU LOSE
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
HEY, FIGHT IN PROGRESS. TIME TO STOP TALKING AND START HURTING! ♪



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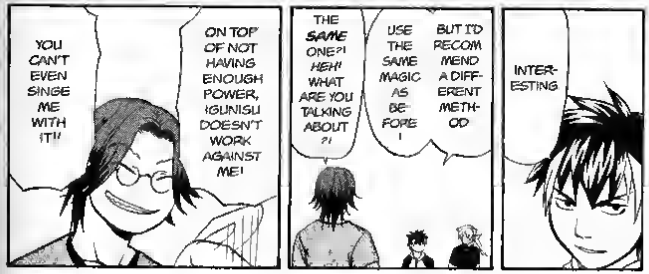
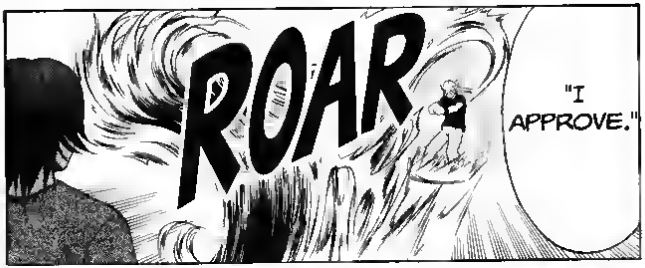

YOU CAN'T EVEN SINGE ME WITH IT!
ON TOP OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH POWER, IGUNISU DOESN'T WORK AGAINST ME!
THE SAME ONE?! HEH! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
USE THE SAME MAGIC AS BEFORE!
BUT I'D RECOMMEND A DIFFERENT METHOD
INTERESTING



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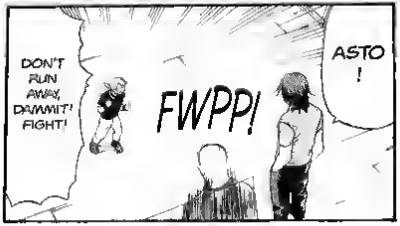
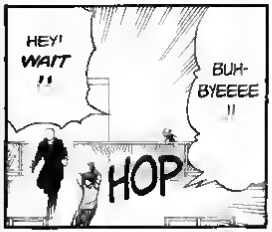
HE SURE IS STUBBORN— CONTINUING AFTER HE PUSHED HIMSELF PAST HIS LIMIT!
DID YOU SEE THAT? KAZUMA LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS.
TMP
TMP

Volume 1: A Match Made in Hell—End





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THIS ILLUSTRATION IS HOW I REPLIED TO THE FAN LETTERS I RECEIVED WHEN I DID THE NORA SHORT STORY. BELIEVE ME, I'VE BEEN CAREFULLY READING ALL THE FAN MAIL I'VE RECEIVED SO FAR! BUT EVER SINCE THE SERIALIZATION STARTED, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO WRITE PERSONAL RESPONSES. I'M HOPING TO FIND SOME OPPORTUNITY TO AT LEAST SEND A COOL GROUP RESPONSE. YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT REALLY GIVES ME A BUZZ. THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!

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▼ FASHIONABLE, PAINFULLY HONEST KANSAI NATIVE, MISS NAKAMICHI

A DESCRIPTION OF MR. KAKEI BY NAKAMICHI:
Ka
SAKE!
'CAUSE HE DRINKS A LOT.
Zu
...IS WHERE THE TIGERS LIVE! PLUS HE'S A HANSHIN BASEBALL FAN.
Na
HE CAN GNAW ON ANYTHING IT'S DISGUSTING
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE AT ALL!
NOTHING WRONG WITH KAZUNARI KAKEI.
AND HE REALLY DOESN'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT HIS PEN NAME
Ri
Congratulations on your manga!!

▼ CAT-LOVER AND MARTIAL ARTS FAN, MS. ASAKO

TO MR. KAKEI,
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF NORA VOLUME 1.
These must be busy days, but please take care and try your best! I'll be cheering you on. —Asako.

#8 THE REASON THE SURNAME IS ONLY ONE CHARACTER IS KAKU AND THE FIRST KANJI USES THE CHARACTER "ICHI" (ONE) ISN'T BECAUSE I'M LAZY. —KAKEI

ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY HEALTH HOLDING UP! —KAKEI

▼ YOKONAMA BAY STARS AND HONG KONG CINEMA FAN, MR. F

A WHILE BACK, I HAD A HORRIBLE TIME AFTER EATING RAW OCTOPUS WITHOUT PROPERLY FILLETING IT FIRST. —KAKEI

▼ ALL AROUND IMPRESARIO AND SUPER-TALENTED COOK, MR. H

ALSO, THANK YOU FOR DELICIOUS MEALS. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SELFISHNESS. BUT I LOVE YOUR FOOD. —KAKEI

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GOD MOVEMENT SCANS

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